# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# DEFENCE
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:263
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2003
MODERNISATION OF ARMY
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether concern has been voiced by experts over the slow modernization of army;

(b) whether Indian Army`s equipment and weapons are obsolete as compared with such items with Chinese and Pakistan Armies;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken to expedite modernization of Indian Army?

## Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 263 FOR 7.8.2003

Modernization and equipment acquisition are based on imperatives of national security, analysis of threat perception and enemies` strategies. Based on this continuous exercise, the Ministry of Defence is regularly upgrading its equipment.

All weapons and weapon systems get outdated at some point of time and need replacement. In a large Army like India`s, it is not possible to replace every equipment in a short period of time. Adequate budgetary resources are being made available for this purpose.

The Indian Army is pursuing a well thought out and comprehensive plan for modernization through a Long Term Perspective Plan and the Five Year Army Plans. As part of its modernization drive, the Army has planned to procure a large variety of equipment for all arms and services. No nation can afford to keep all its weapons/weapon systems at the `state-of-the-art` level. The Indian Army has a reasonable mix of `state-of-the-art`, current and nearing obsolete equipment.

131 contracts have been concluded for procurement of weapons and weapon systems for the Army during 2001-2002 and 94 contracts concluded during 2002-2003. Some of the important modernization schemes finalized during the last two years are as follows:

Fire Power: (1) 3 UBK (Reflex Missiles) for T-90 Tanks, (2) Terminally Guided Munition Krasnopol, (3) Anti Material Rifle, (4) Automatic Grenade Launcher, (5) Multiple Grenade Launcher & Ammunition, (6) 84 mm Rocket Launcher, (7) Disposable Rocket Launcher, (8) Flame Thrower, (9) Konkurs/Konkus-M Missiles, (10) Prithvi Missiles, (11) Special Sniper Rifles, (12) Assault Rifles for PARA Special Forces, (13) Sniper Rifles SVD.

Removal of Night Blindness: (1) Thermal Imaging Fire Control System (2) Thermal Imaging Sight for T-90 Tanks, (3) Thermal Imaging Stand Alone Sight.

Surveillance: (1) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Searcher Mark-II, (2) Radar Flycatcher, (3) Tactical Control Radar, (4) Thermal Imaging Integrated Observation Equipment, (5) Long Range Reconaissance Observation Systems, (6) Hand Held Thermal Imager, (7) Battle Field Surveillance Radar (Short Range), (8) Night Binocular with Range Finder, (9) Weapon Locating Radar.

Communication Equipment: (1) Radio Set 5W/20W, (2) Armoured Fighting Vehicle Radio Set HF 100W, (3) Radio Relay (Low Band), (4) Radio Set STARS-V 25 W, (5) Mini PABX, (6) Very Small Aperture Terminal, (7) Armoured Fighting Vehicle Radio Set 5W/50W.

Mobility: (1) Armoured Recovery Vehicle WZT-3, (2) KMT-6 Mine Ploughs, (3) Armoured Engineer Reconaissance Vehicle, (4) HMV Engineers, (5) Armoured Amphibious Dozer, (6) Engineers Mine Plough, (7) Powered Boat.

Demining Equipment: (1) Boot Anti Mine, (2) Demining Vehicle.

Counter Improvised Explosive Devices Equipment: (1) Fibre Optics Surveillance Device, (2) Electronic Stethoscope, (3) Bomb Suppression Blanket, (4) Bomb Disposal Suit, (5) Telescopic Manipulator, (6) X-Ray Generator, (7) Visual Search Kit, (8) Non-Linear

Junction Detector.

Miscellaneous Equipment: (1) Generator Sets of 2.5 KVA, 4KVA, 7.5 KVA, 11 KVA etc.

Besides, improved version of special clothing and mountaineering equipment like Bag Sleeping, Boots Multipurpose, Gloves Inner and Outer, Rucksuck, etc. have also been procured for troops in the high altitude area.

There has been a substantial increase in the expenditure incurred in modernization of Army during the last decade. In 2001-2002, capital expenditure of Rs. 4950 crores was incurred for modernization of Army as compared to Rs. 1312 crores incurred in 1991-1992.